



2157
Attorney Docket No. 1405.1057

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Satoru WATANABE, et al.

Application No.: 10/067,297

Group Art Unit: 2157

Confirmation No.: 7075

Filed: February 7, 2002

Examiner: Uzma ALAM

For: INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION METHOD AND DEVICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 15, 2005, having a shortened period for response set to expire on October 15, 2005. Applicants elect claims directed to the invention of Group I, which includes claims 1-24 and 26-28, drawn to "distributing information from a computer to multiple users on a network." Applicants reserve the right to further prosecute without prejudice the non-elected claim 25.

However, Applicants also traverse the restriction requirement pointing out that claim 25 of Group II is not drawn to a "way of distributing information between multiple users", as mistakenly claimed by the Examiner, but rather it is drawn to "distributing information from a computer to multiple users on a network", the same as elected claims 1-24 and 26-28. Therefore, reconsideration is requested for examination of claim 25. Moreover, claim 25 is only one claim, and the embodiments of this claim are so closely related to claims 1-24 and 26-28 as not to require separate fields of search.

Accordingly, neither Applicants, nor the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office should be put through the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filings and lengthy prosecution. In addition, Applicants submit that the public-at-large should not be required to obtain and study several patents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

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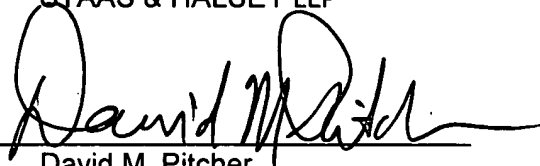
If there are any additional fees associated with this Response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: October 5, 2005

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Pitcher", is written over a horizontal line.

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